

**MINUTES
STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**HOLIDAY INN
1636 S. Peterson Avenue
Douglas, Georgia 31535**

May 21, 2009

9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Kuhlke, Chairman
Larry Walker, Vice Chairman
Roy Herrington
Johnny Floyd
Sam Wellborn
Robert L. Brown, Jr.
Emory McClinton
Brandon Beach
Rudy Bowen
Steve Farrow
David Doss
Bobby Parham

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dana Lemon

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Gerald Ross, Commissioner
Steve Henry, COO
Elizabeth Osmon
Earl Mahfuz
Sandra Burgess

Chairman Bill Kuhlke opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Roy Herrington gave the invocation.

Commissioner Gerald Ross requested that the Board approve the following resolution. Larry Walker made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved.

Resolution

Whereas, Michael Todd Watson is a valued employee of the Georgia Department of Transportation, serving as an Equipment Operator One in Coffee County, working out of the Douglas Area Office of District Four; and

Whereas, Michael Todd Watson is a dedicated employee of the Department of Transportation, performing his duties in an exemplary manner since his employment in 2007; and

Whereas, Michael Todd Watson is an 11-year veteran of the Georgia Army National Guard and holds the rank of Sergeant; and

Whereas, he was deployed for 12 months with the 848th Engineer Company, serving from March 2008 to March 2009 at Camp Taji, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

Whereas, he previously served a 12-month tour (2005-2006) at Camp Liberty and Camp Taji in Iraq; and

Whereas, because of his valued service during his deployments, Michael Todd Watson has to date earned the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd award), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2nd award), the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd award), the Combat Action Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badge, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, and the Army Freedom Ring for two tours of duty in Iraq; and

Whereas, Michael Todd Watson served his nation with honor and commitment, answering the call of his Country.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the State Transportation Board acknowledges Michael Todd Watson for his contributions to the Department and faithful service to his Nation in its time of need and each member of the Board offers heartfelt appreciation and best wishes upon his return to the Department.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be provided to Michael Todd Watson in recognition of his devoted and commendable service.

Adopted this the 21st day of May, 2009.

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Commissioner Gerald Ross requested that the Board waive the 10 Day Rule to approve the following resolution. Larry Walker made a motion to waive the 10 Day Rule to approve the following resolution, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved. Commissioner Ross requested that the Board approve the following resolution. Robert Brown made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

Resolution

Whereas, Daniel Jones is a valued employee of the Georgia Department of Transportation, serving as a Maintenance Equipment Operator working out of the District Four Maintenance Office in Tift County; and

Whereas, Daniel Jones has performed his duties in an exemplary manner since his employment on November 1, 1968; and

Whereas, Daniel Jones has served the residents of South Georgia as a Highway Maintenance Equipment Operator in District Four, and in the Bridge Headquarters and leader in the Motor Pool; and

Whereas, Daniel Jones' expertise with maintenance equipment is an inspiration to his fellow GDOT employees, and;

Whereas, Daniel Jones resides with his wife Dorothy in Poulan in Worth County and they have four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and;

Whereas, Daniel Jones is currently the longest serving employee of the Georgia Department of Transportation, with 40-and-one-half years of dedicated service to the Department.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the State Transportation Board acknowledges Daniel Jones for his contributions to the Department and each member of the Board offers heartfelt appreciation and best wishes upon his retirement from the Department.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be provided to Daniel Jones in recognition of his devoted and commendable service.

Adopted this the 21st day of May, 2009.

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Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2009 meetings. Roy Herrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2009 meetings, seconded by Rudy Bowen and unanimously approved.*

Angela Alexander, Director of Planning, presented the projects proposed for the June 2009 Letting for approval. Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to approve. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the projects proposed for the June 2009 Letting, seconded by Rudy Bowen and unanimously approved.*

Angela Alexander, Director of Planning & Data, asked the Board to approve the revisions to the Construction Work Program for May 2009. Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to approve the

Steve Henry also gave a presentation on Rightsizing for Organizational Efficiency, GDOT Maintenance Work, which included routine maintenance crews and maintenance activities.* Steve Henry also gave an update on the I-16 bridge closure.

Chris Tomlinson, General Counsel, gave a Legal Update, which included one mediation, closed cases and ongoing investigations.

Commissioner Gerald Ross gave his monthly report, which included state fund collections; total employment figure ending April 30, 2009; major projects open to traffic; ARRA 2009 stimulus activities and topics of interest.* Commissioner Ross also gave a report on the Safe Route to School Program.*

Larry Walker gave a report from the Intermodal Committee. Larry Walker stated that Erik Steavens, Director of Intermodal Programs, gave a presentation on the stimulus funding for aviation and transit; the state rail plan and the Decatur Beltline project and there was no action taken by the committee.

David Doss gave a report from the Alternative Finance Committee. David Doss stated that Earl Mahfuz, Assistant Treasurer, gave an update on the impact of Senate Bill 200 on Public Private Initiatives (PPI). David Doss also stated that the committee requested that staff move forward aggressively with implementing public private partnerships.

Sam Wellborn gave a report from the Finance Committee. Sam Wellborn stated that Earl Mahfuz, Assistant Treasurer gave an update on Right-of-Way De-authorization. Kate Pfirmman gave a report on the discrepancy between the Federal program and the state program. Sam Wellborn stated that Kate Pfirmman explained the reason for the discrepancy and it has been reconciled. Sam Wellborn also stated that staff will do a presentation at the next Board meeting on Fuel Index cost for the last 12 months.

There being no further business, Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to adjourn. Roy Herrington made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

Approved:


Bill Kuhlke, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:


Elizabeth Osmon, Board Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**